DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 390 763 SO 025 637

AUTHOR Flaherty, Sean L.
TITLE School of the Americas: At War With Democracy? Study Guide. Episode #804. America's Defense Monitor, Educational TV for the Classroom.
INSTITUTION Center for Defense Information, Washington, DC.
PUB DATE Oct 94
NOTE 9p.; This brochure accompanies a VHS videotape of the same title (not available from EDRS). For other study guides in this series, see SO 025 635-642.
AVAILABLE FROM Center for Defense Information, 1500 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005 ($25 per VHS copy; educational discounts available).
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Developed Nations; *Developing Nations; Higher Education; *International Relations; Justice; *Latin Americans; *Military Schools; Military Training; *National Defense; Quality of Life; Secondary Education; Social Studies; Values; World Affairs; World Problems
IDENTIFIERS Georgia (Fort Benning); School of the Americas GA

ABSTRACT

This program examines the 50-year practice of the U.S. training of Latin American soldiers at the School of the Americas. Originally designed as a jungle warfare training center in the 1950s, the program evolved into a Cold War program to promote stability and democracy in Latin America. Human rights abuses have been charged against these elite trained soldiers. The study guide offers questions to use before viewing the video, questions to follow the video, classroom activities to focus student thinking on the problem, topics for further research, and a list of 13 resources. (EH)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED 390 763

AMERICA'S DEFENSE MONITOR

Educational TV for the Classroom

STUDY GUIDE FOR SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS: AT WAR WITH DEMOCRACY?

EPISODE # 804

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☒ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

MARK SUGG

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Produced by the Center for Defense Information

SO 025137

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS: AT WAR WITH DEMOCRACY

The United States has been training Latin American soldiers for the last fifty years at the School of the Americas, at Fort Benning in Georgia. During those years over 50,000 soldiers have been trained through the program. The program was originally designed as a jungle warfare training center in the 1950s, and it evolved into a Cold War program to promote stability and democracy in Latin America. Supporters of the program say that the school promotes American values in Latin America and has given the United States influence in the region, all at a relatively low cost. With the Cold War over, supporters now say that the school can play a role in helping to fight the "War on Drugs."

However the effectiveness and the role of the school has come under fire due to the questionable human rights records of its graduates and its mission now that the Cold War is over. Manuel Noreiga of Panama and Roberto D'Aubisson of El Salvador were graduates of the school who used their military skills to repress democratic reform in their countries. Human rights groups have implicated many graduates of the school in human rights abuses throughout Latin America. Now Congress and several activist groups are pushing to stop funding for the program.

THIS PROGRAM FEATURES:

Col. JOSE ALVAREZ	Commandant, School of the Americas
FATHER ROY BOURGEOIS	Maryknoll Priest, SOA Watch
CHUCK CALL	Washington Office on Latin America
Col. WALTER NAVARRO	Asst. Commandant, School of the Americas
CALEB ROSSITER	Director, Project on Demilitarization and Democracy

BEFORE VIEWING QUESTIONS

1) What is the Monroe Doctrine and how has it been used to justify American action in the past?

2) Where have U.S. forces been used during the last century in Latin America? In what context were they used?

3) What do you think America's role in Latin America should be now that the Cold War is over?

4) Do you think that taxpayer money should be used to train foreign military officers?

5) Should the United States link foreign military aid to a country's human rights record?

6) What do you think would be the best way to teach the "American Way of Life" to someone from another country?

7) Did the Cold War change U.S. actions in the region, or was it a continuation of U.S. foreign policy with a different name?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AFTER VIEWING

1) Do you think that the School of the Americas should remain open? Whose argument was more convincing to you?

2) Can social stability and democracy be promoted through military means? If not, what would be the best way for the United States to do this?

3) How could the training at the School of the Americas be changed to help improve the human rights records of its graduates?

4) Where should our foreign aid dollars be spent?

5) What was the justification for the United States to train the officers of foreign militaries?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Divide the class into small groups and tell them to develop a list of what things they consider to be human rights. Ask them to consider if both economic and political rights are universal human rights, or if there is a difference between the two issues. Then have the class compare their findings to see what the differing views are within the class. Compile a list of what a majority of the class agreed were human rights and discuss why certain "rights" were left on the list and why others were left off the list.

Imagine that the Congress is about to vote to end funding for the School of the Americas. Split the students into groups. Ass gn a group to prepare an argument for the following issues: Why the school should be saved; Why the school is a Cold War program, whose funding could be better spent on other programs; Why the human rights record of the school's graduates should force the school to close. After the groups prepare their arguments have them debate the issue.

TOPICS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

1) Explore the history of the School of the Americas. Research the events that led to the formation of the school and how the purpose of the program has changed over the years. It is your job to formulate a policy position to present to a lawmaker stating whether the program should be stopped, or if the United States has a use for it in the future.

2) Look at the causal effects of U.S. involvement (economic, military, etc.) in one Latin American country. Suggested countries are Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Chile. Has this involvement tended to increase the economic well-being of the country. Is there a link between economics and military intervention and politics and military intervention.

RESOURCES

Blair, Joseph. "SOA isn't Teaching Democracy." *Columbus Ledger-Inquirer*. 20 July 1993.

Call, Charles. "Academy of Torture." *Miami Herald*. 9 August 1993.

Carroll, James. "A U.S. School that Teaches Militaries How to Torture." *Boston Globe*. 8 October 1993.

Human Rights and U.S. Security Assistance. Washington DC: Amnesty International, May 1993.

Lopez, George. "Why the Generals Wage War on the People." *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. May 1990.

Quinn-Judge, Paul. "Haitians Trained After Coup." *Boston Globe*. 6 December 1993.

Reeder, Joe. "School for Democracy." *Washington Post*. 23 May 1994.

United States. *Observations on the International Military Educational Training Program*. Washington DC: General Accounting Office, June 1990.

Waller, Douglas. "Training a School for Dictators." *Newsweek*. 9 August 1993, 34-37.

Organizations:

SOA Watch
P.O. Box 5330
Columbus, GA 31903
(706) 682-5369

Project on Demilitarization and Democracy
1601 Connecticut Ave NW
Suite 500
(202) 234-9382

Washington Office on Latin America
110 Maryland Ave NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 544-8045

Amnesty International
304 Pennsylvania Ave SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 544-0200

AMERICA'S DEFENSE MONITOR: THE PERFECT WAY TO BRING ISSUES TO LIFE IN THE CLASSROOM

America's Defense Monitor offers an in-depth look at our nation's military and security-related policies. Each thirty minute program is a visually stimulating and entertaining resource for the high school or college classroom. Episodes can be used to supplement regular classroom material or to introduce new topics. By bringing topics to life through the medium of video, this award-winning series can help arouse student interest in crucial issues.

Topics range from the social costs of military spending to nuclear proliferation, the arms trade, and the impact of the military on society, the media and the environment. Each program features interviews with important policy makers.

America's Defense Monitor is produced by the Center for Defense Information, an independent monitor of the military. For more information and a complete catalogue, contact us at:

Center for Defense Information
1500 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
or call 1-800-CDI-3334
Fax (202) 862-0708; email: cdi@igc.apc.org

This Study Guide created by Sean L. Flaherty.